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In the third quarter of 2015, meat production and producer value decreased by 4.2 and 7.8 per cent respectively when compared to the corresponding period in 2014.

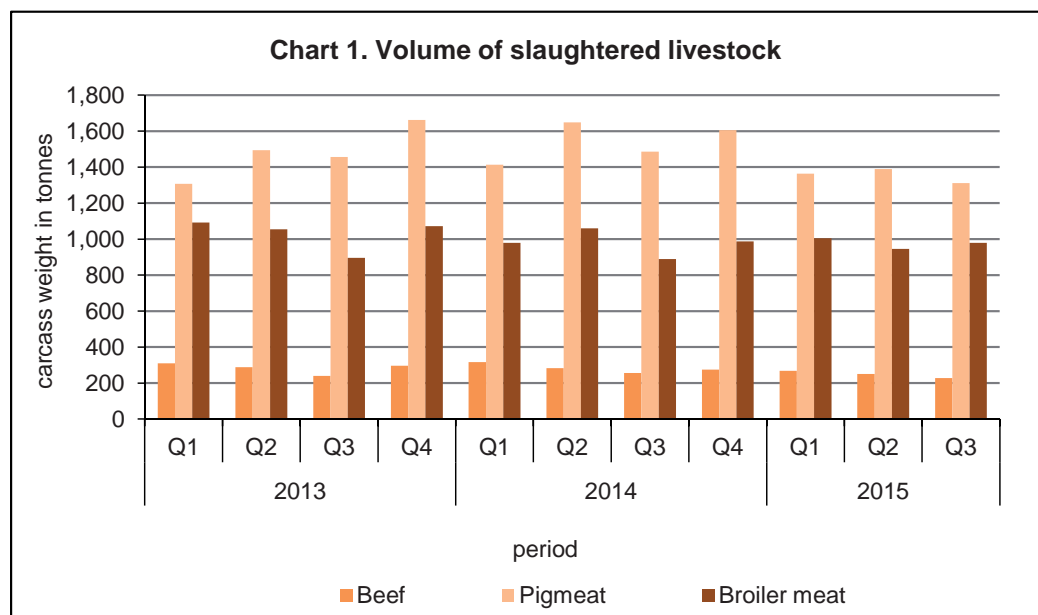
Meat Production: Q3/2015

In the third quarter, meat production went down by 4.2 per cent to 2,518 tonnes. This was due to drops of 11.8 and 10.7 per cent in the production of pigmeat and beef. On the other hand, an increase of 10.2 per cent was registered in the production of broiler meat (Table 2).

Lower beef production resulted from a 10.4 per cent drop in the number of slaughtered cattle. Slaughtered pigs decreased by 2,477 heads, corresponding to a drop in the production of pigmeat, although an increase of 3.0 per cent was registered in the average carcass weight. The increase in broiler meat resulted from a 5.3 per cent rise in the number of slaughtered broilers together with an increase of 4.7 per cent in the average carcass weight (Tables 1 & 4).

Producer Value

The producer value of animals slaughtered at licensed slaughterhouses amounted to €5.3 million, 7.8 per cent less when compared to the third quarter of 2014. This was brought about by decreases of 15.1 and 4.7 per cent in the producer value of pigmeat and beef respectively. In contrast, an increase of 7.3 per cent was registered in the producer value of broiler meat (Table 3) ■



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Table 1. Livestock (in heads) slaughtered at licensed slaughterhouses by period

Livestock	July-September (Q3)			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
Cattle	846	936	839	-97	-10.4
Pigs	17,428	17,230	14,753	-2,477	-14.4
Broilers	584,760	551,188	580,353	29,165	5.3

Table 2. Carcass weight by period and type of meat (Kgs)

Type of meat	July-September (Q3)			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
Beef	239,821	255,549	228,170	-27,379	-10.7
Pigmeat	1,456,222	1,485,439	1,310,613	-174,826	-11.8
Broiler meat	896,383	888,488	979,060	90,572	10.2
Total	2,592,426	2,629,476	2,517,843	-111,633	-4.2

Table 3. Producer value by period and type of meat (€)

Type of meat	July-September (Q3)			Change	Percentage change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014	
Beef	768,984	701,201	668,428	-32,773	-4.7
Pigmeat	3,451,246	3,520,490	2,988,198	-532,292	-15.1
Broiler meat	1,695,766	1,563,626	1,678,207	114,581	7.3
Total	5,915,996	5,785,317	5,334,833	-450,484	-7.8

Table 4. Average carcass weight by period and type of meat (Kgs)

Type of meat	July-September (Q3)			Change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014
Beef	283.5	273.0	272.0	-0.4
Pigmeat	83.6	86.2	88.8	3.0
Broiler meat	1.5	1.6	1.7	4.7

Table 5. Average carcass price by period and type of meat (€)

Type of meat	July-September (Q3)			Change
	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014
Beef	3.2	2.7	2.9	6.8
Pigmeat	2.4	2.4	2.3	-3.8
Broiler meat	1.9	1.8	1.7	-2.6

Methodological Notes

1. Monthly data with regard to cattle and pig slaughtering are provided by the abattoir under the responsibility of the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change. Data on broiler slaughtering are provided directly by private licensed slaughterhouses. Data sets are finalised after actual data are collected from all active licensed slaughterhouses.
2. Slaughterhouses provide data on the number of heads slaughtered, carcass weight, and the average carcass price per kilogram.
3. Data in respect of meat production are presented in terms of carcass weight.
4. **Definitions:**
 - **Pig carcass weight:** The weight of the slaughtered pig's cold body, either whole or divided in half along the mid-line, after being bled, eviscerated and having its tongue, bristles, hooves, genitalia, flare flat, kidneys and diaphragm removed.
 - **Cattle carcass weight:** The weight of the slaughtered cattle's cold body after being skinned, bled, eviscerated and having its genitalia, limbs at the carpus and tarsus, head, tail, kidneys, kidney fats and udder removed.
 - **Broiler carcass weight:** The weight of the slaughtered broiler's cold body after being bled, plucked and eviscerated and having its head, feet, neck, heart, liver and gizzard removed.
5. The carcass's average price and weight are used for the compilation of monthly output price and volume
6. The producer value of meat production excludes any subsidies on the product.
7. Total meat production does not include slaughtered rabbits.
8. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
http://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_B3/Agriculture_and_Environment_Statistics/Pages/Meat-Production.aspx

European statistics comparable to data in this News Release are available at:

[EUROSTAT Website/Homepage/Statistics Database](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&code=sdg_12_2_1)

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